



American Pharmacists Association

Improving medication use. Advancing patient care.

Memorandum to American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Media Contacts

TO: APhA Media Contacts
FROM: APhA Public Relations
DATE: October 28, 2004
RE: APhA Task Force Defines New Pharmacy Care OTC Category

Today an American Pharmacists Association Task Force issued a report defining a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) medications – Pharmacy Care OTCs – non-prescription medications available in outlets with a pharmacy. The goal of the new category is to facilitate interactions between consumers and pharmacists. The Task Force included members from independent and chain pharmacy practice, academia, managed care, and pharmacy management.

OTCs are powerful; that's why they work. Pharmacy Care OTCs would expand consumer access to medications that may be used for chronic, asymptomatic conditions (such as osteoporosis or high cholesterol) or other conditions where consumers would benefit from additional interaction with their pharmacist.

An added benefit is that greater involvement of pharmacists enhances the triage function that they already provide – referring consumers for additional medical care when indicated.

The APhA Task Force on Pharmacy Care OTCs is actively soliciting comment on its recommendations (attached). The deadline for comment is December 1, 2004. Comments may be sent to TaskForce@APhAnet.org. The Task Force will consider comments and issue a final report in early 2005.

To set up an interview on this topic, contact APhA Public Relations at (202) 429-7537, or e-mail PRInfo@APhAnet.org.

Attachments:

[APhA Pharmacy Care OTC Task Force Report of Opening Meeting](#)
[APhA Pharmacy Care OTC Task Force Roster](#)